

newspaper files and public documents are included, but this is not a piece of research—it is a survey of the Philadelphia book stock, and as such an interesting and provocative work for non-Philadelphians.—*John VanMale, A.L.A. Fellow, Graduate Library School, University of Chicago.*

Review Index; a Quarterly Guide to Professional Reviews for College and Reference Libraries. Edited by Louis Kaplan and Clarence S. Paine. Chicago, Follett Book Co., December 1940 to date. \$3.50 per annum.

IF, AS POPE PUTS IT, "Index learning turns no student pale, yet holds the eel of science by the tail" the editors of the *Review Index* have done their profession a service in providing another grip on those elusive appraisals of current books which librarians seek for their own advantage and that of their patrons.

It is no substitute for the *Book Review Digest* because it gives no excerpts from reviews nor does it offer any symbols to indicate merit or the lack of it. Furthermore, it is a straight author list with no entries under subject or title and a minimum number of cross references. It gives the author's name in secondary fullness, a brief title, publisher, date, price, and, as a rule, a reference to one book review, although occasionally a second or even a third is cited.

While the *Book Review Digest* selects reviews of books more or less in the public eye from approximately 80 periodicals and newspapers, the *Review Index* lists all of the reviews, with a very few exceptions, in about 60 journals of a scholarly kind, and covers nearly 400 more titles than the other index in a three months period. As might be expected, there is some overlapping. Of the items in a

single column of the new index, 11 out of 31 titles were covered in the *Book Review Digest*, while of the 19 reviews of books in the September, 1940, issue of the *Geographical Journal*, 8 were included in both places. It seems fair to conclude that the *Review Index* will provide each year critical information on about 1500 more books than has been available in the past.

One is struck by the absence of the foreign reviews which are so greatly desired by research workers in certain fields. The *Bibliographie der Rezensionen*, which will continue to appear, one hopes, covers the foreign field quite comprehensively but scholars and library staff shy away from it. We like our information to come more easily. In any case, it is nonexistent for the period covered by the *Review Index*. Foreign reviews are needed now as never before since personal communications with Europe have almost ceased. During the latter part of 1940 few periodicals were received from continental Europe. They have begun to come again. Among important reviewing media seen during the past month have been: *Beiblatt zur Anglia*, *Deutsche Rundschau*, *Zeitschrift für Französische Sprache und Literatur* and *Nordisk Tidsskrift*, to mention but a few of many. Incidentally, an important foreign language journal published in this hemisphere but omitted from the *Review Index* is *Revista Iberoamericana* which contains valuable signed reviews. Among English language periodicals there are several important ones which are missing but they will most probably be added as a demand for them arises.

While one misses any subject approach to material it is undoubtedly true, as the editors explain in the preface to the first

issue, that it would add greatly to the cost of the undertaking. What one misses even more is a guide to the length of the reviews which ought not to be prohibitively expensive either from the editorial standpoint or production costs.

In spite of its modest format and the brevity of its entries, the *Review Index* should prove to be a useful and inexpensive addition to the bibliographical apparatus of college, university, and the larger public libraries.—*Harold Russell, University of Minnesota Library.*

Guide to Bibliographies of Theses, United States and Canada. Thomas R. Palfrey and Henry E. Coleman. A.L.A., Chicago, 1940. 54p. \$1.25, paper.

THE SECOND EDITION to the *Guide to Bibliographies* follows closely in scope and arrangement the first edition of 1936. Part I is again a short list of those American bibliographies which are not restricted to one institution or field of interest (7 titles); Part II is a very brief list (65 entries) arranged by subject or "field." It is hard to understand the erratic choice of subject headings, the termination of the list with "Speech," and the uneven inclusion of titles found later in Part III, but for practical purposes the last part is the more important section, and we proceed to that.

In the division called "Institutional Lists" there are approximately 330 entries. Twenty-five per cent, which consist of references to college catalogs and presidents' reports, have not been investigated. An additional 12 per cent refer to manuscript lists which must also be passed over. An inconsistency in the form of entry used for supplements, and a confusion between checklisting technique and cataloging practice result in the cumbersome

inclusion of another 8 per cent of entries. Of the remaining 150 titles, 11 were out of date last August. These are: Clark University, George Washington University, University of Florida, Louisiana State University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State College, Southern Methodist University, Stanford University, University of Southern California, Tulane University, and Vanderbilt University. A few omissions of old titles were noted. In the series called "Masters Essays" for Columbia University, 1934, 1937, and 1938 are strangely missing. The *Wisconsin Abstracts of Theses*, v. 1, 1917, is omitted. A consistent practice for the arrangement of series notes and for the use of brackets would have been helpful since most of the outright errors were apparent in that connection. Obviously, the *Guide* is useful, but it is a great pity that such a compilation was not made to conform to the professional standards for either order, cataloging, or reference departments.—*Isabel Howell, Vanderbilt University Library.*

Geschichte der Bibliotheken in Grossbritannien und in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika. Albert Predeek. Otto Harrassowitz, 1940. From the *Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft*, III, pp. 855-975.

THE MONUMENTAL Milkau-Leyh *Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft* was completed last year with the publication of the third volume, which is devoted to library history. The consummation of this invaluable work represents the crowning effort of continental librarians to endow their profession with the status of a science standardized by its indispensable *Handbuch*. Petzholdt, Graesel, and Dahl had attempted the task with a degree of